A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thurſday, December 30. 1708

IN the *Review*, N° 116. I explain'd the Vanity of the *Rehearſal* in his Flouriſh of ſuffering Martyrdom, for a Thing which no Body denies, and which really has nothing in it; but becauſe this Bluſter of Mr. *Rehearſal* has ſomething in it, that every Body does not underſtand, and is a Fore-runner of a very pretty *Jacobite* Project, which perhaps few People foreſee; I muſt enter a little into ſome of the *Arcana* of *Jacobitiſm*, I mean *Northernly* conſider'd, which I foreſee are forming to be midwifed into the World, when they are come a little nearer their Birth; I will not ſay, that even this great Prophet of the Party is privy to the Deſign, for you are to underſtand him but a Voluntier in this particular Caſe, and a Fool to be us'd, when officiouſly he offers his Service as there is Occaſion—— But this Plot is too deep to truſt with Scoundrels, and he is none of the Privy Council of the Party, as I find by his Ignorance of ſeveral Circumſtances among them, which he ſupplies by Forgeries and Flouriſhes of his own.

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Had he been of Council with the *Jacobite* Clergy of *Scotland*, he would never have brought in Mr. *Herriot*'s Story, and plac'd him as a perſecuted Miniſter, whoſe Character was either *too bad* to be call'd one of their Number, or *too bad* to be made publick; and if he had any Prudence or Regard for theſe Gentlemen, whoſe Characters to do them Juſtice are not like this *Herriot*'s, I aſſure him, he would not have made it publick; but alas he is known too well to be truſted with Secrets, and making him the Tool, he only took the Part he knew, and ſo the Folly of expoſing Mr. *Herriot* lies ſomewhere elſe.

Now we come to the Challenge about the Queen's making a Biſhop; and here we muſt go back into an Affair that requires ſome Hiſtory, which I ſuppoſe, Mr. *Rehearſal* knows not much of.

The *Epiſcopal Diſſenters* in *Scotland* ſometime ago finding, that ſince the Revolution their Caſe had lain a long while unretriev'd, *contrary to their Expectation*, and that Presbytery had then reign'd almoſt 15 Years, and which was ſtill worſe, that King *William* dying, the Uſurpation, *ſo they call the Settlement of the Succeſſion*, was reviv'd in the preſent QUEEN, and unhappily like to continue, and that the Number of their Biſhops began to decline, being reduc'd by Mortality to about Six, *I think, for I will not be poſitive in the Number*; That however the Queen ſeem'd to ſhow ſome Concern for them, and was willing in ſome Things to let that Concern procure their Quiet, if they had underſtood it, but from which they preſum'd more than ever was deſign'd, *eſpecially the Non-Juring Part of them*. Upon theſe Views, I ſay, a Deſign was ſet on Foot to get a Licence or Authority from the Queen to the remaining Biſhops of *Scotland*, to conſecrate Nominal Biſhops to the vacant Sees of *Scotland*, tho' without Stipends or Poſſeſſion of the Churches or Cathedrals, *&c.* who being thus conſecrated, might exerciſe their Dioceſan Power, receive ſuch a Miniſterial Obedience, as would be voluntarily paid them by their own Party, and, *which was the main End*, ſhould by this means maintain the Succeſſion of Biſhops, and conſequently preſerve the Epiſcopal Ordination of their Miniſters, exactly as is the Caſe of the *Roman* Catholick Titular Biſhops in *Ireland*, who are maintain'd to this Day, tho' the Subjection of that Kingdom to the Dominion of the Proteſtant *Engliſh*, is near 140 Years old.

I could enter a little farther into this Hiſtory, and tell you how far it went, who prepar'd and drew up an Addreſs to be preſented to her Majeſty, who in *England* prompted it, and who in *Scotland* contriv'd and encourag'd it, and wrote into the *North* to get Hands to it— But the Seaſon for naming of great Names with a great L before them is not yet; Time may come, when I may ſpeak plainer upon what is paſs'd; in the mean while the World may remember. the *Rehearſal* began to

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make Way for this by his propoſing in Print, to unite the *Scots* Biſhops to the *Engliſh*—which was a ſecond Thought upon the Failing of the former——But both fail'd; the firſt becauſe they foreſaw it could not be expected, the Queen would give Way to nominate *Non Jurors* for Biſhops, and they would not give Way to conſecrate any other; the laſt fail'd from the very Abſurdity of the Thing, I mean a Conjunction of *Scots*, *Non Jurant* Biſhops with the *Engliſh* Biſhops, acknowledging and ſwearing to the Queen; each of which reciprocally accounted the other *Schiſmatical*. And this was the true Reaſon, why the *Rehearſal* would never give a fair Anſwer to that Queſtion, what he meant by the Church of *England*, with whom theſe *Scots* Biſhops ſhould be joyn'd?

He durſt not own he meant the *Non-Jurant* Biſhops in *England* whom alone they own to be the true Church of *England*— And to ſuggeſt they were the Conforming Biſhops, whom they damn'd as Schiſmatical, was abſurd, and ſo he run away from the Argument, and caſt'd another Cauſe.

Now to bring this all down to the preſent Caſe——The Archbiſhop of *Glaſgow*, Dr. . . . , is juſt now dead, and the Apprehenſions of the expiring of a true Succeſſion of Prelatick Authority in *Scotland* revives—— Upon this a new Notion is ſtarted by the *Rehearſal*——That the Civil Authority cannot make a Biſhop, That *if the Queen and Parliament ſhould deſtroy all the Biſhops, and require them to live without them, they ſhould not be obey'd*——And what follows? *Rehearſal*, Dec. 18 No. 21. *I would ſeek for Biſhops where I could get them, &c*—— And thus at laſt the Riddle is expounded——

The Caſe is plain, the Queen and Parliament has aboliſh'd *Epiſcopacy* in *Scotland*; but theſe People, ſays the *Rehearſal*, are not to obey her *There's admirable Paſſive Obedience by the way*; and what follows? *But ſeek for Biſhops where they can get them.* The Meaning is this, that they will have Biſhops without the Queen's Nomination—— And now wait but a little, and let us ſee, whether they dare take a Nomination, or a *Conge d' Eſlire* from the Pretender or no, *for that is the Engliſh of it*, for the filling up the vacant Biſhopricks in *Scotland*.

Perhaps they may not run that Riſque—— The next Thing is then to do by the QUEEN, as ſome body elſe once did by the Biſhops in *England*, viz. *Vote Her Majeſty uſeleſs in the Caſe*, Vote the Queen's Nomination of no Neceſſity, and ſo proceed as the Chapter of *Canterbury* did in *England* of late without the Royal Authority and Conſecrate Biſhops of their own Nomination.

And thus you have a Sketch of a Project, which is yet but an Embrio in the World, but in Time you may hear more of it; mean while, the little Beginnings of it ſhew themſelves—— There are indeed ſome Difficulties in the way, ſuch as Contempt of the Laws, breaking

breaking in upon the Queen's Prerogative, depoſing *the Regale* in the Proteſtant Church, and taking away the Supremacy of the Crown in Eccleſiaſtick Cauſes, and the like; but theſe are but ſmall Matters, tho' they may perhaps come ſo near the Verge of Treaſon, as may make the People cautious how they adventure upon them.

But above all, I would humbly recommend it to the Parliament of *Britain*, to put a ſtop in the way of one Branch of the Deſign, and to declare it high Treaſon for any Perſons to Conſecrate any Biſhop in the Iſle of *Britain*, by the Nomination of the Pretender, or to receive any Writ or Authority from him, or in ſhort, to Conſecrate or be Conſecrated by any other Authority, than that of Her Majeſty.

Nor can the Epiſcopal Clergy in *Scotland*, think themſelves oppreſs'd in this, ſince all of them that acknowledge the Government may receive Epiſcopal Ordination, in Caſe of Neceſſity from *Engliſh* Biſhops, and the Oppreſſion is not ſo great as to drive them to ſo open a Violation of their Allegiance, as to fly to the Pretender, and ſo ſolemnly recognize his Title to the Crown of *Britain*, as to accept of his Nomination to a vacant Biſhoprick, which is in a manner putting him in the actual Exerciſe of the Government of *Britain*.

Time perhaps will make ſome farther Diſcovery of this Matter; till then, I only remind the Reader of the Project, that he may know the Story again when it comes to be put in Practice.

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